

C L A I M S

I Claim:

- 1 1. A method of inquiring of capabilities of a target device comprising:
  - 2 a. sending an inquiry command including an opcode and any number of operands
  - 3 over a network from a controller to a target device;
  - 4 b. determining at the target device if the target device supports the opcode and
  - 5 operands; and
  - 6 c. sending a response command from the target device to the controller over the
  - 7 network informing the controller if the target device supports the opcode and
  - 8 operands.
- 1 2. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the inquiry command is a control
- 2 inquiry command.
- 1 3. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the inquiry command is a status
- 2 inquiry command.
- 1 4. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the inquiry command is a notify
- 2 inquiry command.
- 1 5. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the network substantially complies
- 2 with a version of the IEEE 1394 standard.

- 1 6. A method of inquiring of capabilities of a target device comprising:  
2 a. sending an inquiry command, selected from a group of a status inquiry  
3 command and a notify inquiry command, including an opcode, over a network  
4 from a controller to a target device;  
5 b. determining at the target device if the target device supports the opcode; and  
6 c. sending a response command from the target device to the controller over the  
7 network informing the controller if the target device supports the opcode.

1 7. The method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the inquiry command further  
2 comprises one or more operands and further wherein determining also includes determining if  
3 the target device supports the operands and the response command informs the controller if  
4 the target device supports the operands.

1 8. The method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the inquiry command is a control  
2 inquiry command.

1 9. The method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the inquiry command is a status  
2 inquiry command.

1 10. The method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the inquiry command is a notify  
2 inquiry command.

1 11. The method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the network substantially complies  
2 with a version of the IEEE 1394 standard.

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- 1 12. A control device for communicating with a target device over a network, the  
2 control device comprising:
- 3 a. means for generating an inquiry command including an opcode and any  
4 number of operands; and
- 5 b. means for communicating coupled to the means for generating and configured  
6 for coupling to the network for sending the inquiry command over the network  
7 to the target device and receiving a response command from the target device,  
8 wherein the response command includes notification informing the control  
9 device if the target device supports the opcode and operands.
- 10 13. The control device as claimed in claim 12 wherein the inquiry command is a  
11 control inquiry command.
- 12 14. The control device as claimed in claim 12 wherein the inquiry command is a  
13 status inquiry command.
- 14 15. The control device as claimed in claim 12 wherein the inquiry command is a  
15 notify inquiry command.
- 16 16. The control device as claimed in claim 12 wherein the network substantially  
17 complies with a version of the IEEE 1394 standard.
- 18 17. A control device configured to communicate with a target device over a  
19 network, the control device comprising:
- 20 a. a data packet generating circuit to generate an inquiry command including an  
21 opcode and any number of operands; and
- 22 b. an interface circuit coupled to the data packet generating circuit and configured  
23 to couple to the network to send the inquiry command over the network to the

7 target device and receive a response command from the target device, wherein  
8 the response command includes notification informing the control device if the  
9 target device supports the opcode and operands.

1 18. The control device as claimed in claim 17 wherein the inquiry command is a  
2 control inquiry command.

1 19. The control device as claimed in claim 17 wherein the inquiry command is a  
status inquiry command.

20. The control device as claimed in claim 17 wherein the inquiry command is a  
notify inquiry command.

1 21. The control device as claimed in claim 17 wherein the network substantially  
complies with a version of the IEEE 1394 standard.

2 22. A control inquiry AV/C command data packet used to inquire about  
capabilities relative to a control command of a target device over a network comprising:

- 3 a. an opcode; and  
4 b. one or more operands.

1 23. The control inquiry AV/C command data packet as claimed in claim 22  
2 wherein the network substantially complies with a version of the IEEE 1394 standard.

1 24. A status inquiry AV/C command data packet used to inquire about capabilities  
2 relative to a status command of a target device over a network, the status inquiry AV/C  
3 command data packet comprising an opcode.

1 25. The status inquiry AV/C command data packet as claimed in claim 24 further  
2 comprising one or more operands.

1 26. The status inquiry AV/C command data packet as claimed in claim 24 wherein  
2 the network substantially complies with a version of the IEEE 1394 standard.

1 27. A notify inquiry AV/C command data packet used to inquire about capabilities  
2 relative to a notify command of a target device over a network, the notify inquiry AV/C  
3 command data packet comprising an opcode.

1 28. The notify inquiry AV/C command data packet as claimed in claim 27 further  
2 comprising one or more operands.

1 29. The notify inquiry AV/C command data packet as claimed in claim 27 wherein  
2 the network substantially complies with a version of the IEEE 1394 standard.

1 30. A method of inquiring of capabilities of a target device from a control device  
2 over an IEEE 1394 serial bus comprising:

- 3 a. submitting an AV/C inquiry command data packet from a control device over  
4 the serial bus to a target device, wherein the inquiry command data packet  
5 includes an opcode and any number of operands;  
6 b. receiving the inquiry command data packet at the target device and generating  
7 a response data packet therefrom, wherein the response data packet specifies  
8 whether the target device supports the opcode and operands; and  
9 c. transmitting the response data packet to the control device.

1 31. The method as claimed in claim 30 wherein the inquiry command data packet  
2 is a control inquiry command.

1 32. The method as claimed in claim 30 wherein the inquiry command data packet  
2 is a status inquiry command.

1 33. The method as claimed in claim 30 wherein the inquiry command data packet  
2 is a notify inquiry command.

1 34. A network of devices coupled together by a standard IEEE 1394 serial bus  
2 comprising:  
3 a. a control device in communication with the standard IEEE 1394 serial bus and  
4 configured for sending an inquiry command including an opcode and any  
5 number of operands over the standard IEEE 1394 serial bus; and  
6 b. a target device in communication with the standard IEEE 1394 serial bus and  
7 configured for receiving the inquiry command, determining if the target device  
8 supports the opcode and operands and sending a response command to the  
9 control device over the standard IEEE 1394 serial bus informing the control  
10 device if the target device supports the opcode and operands.

1 35. The network of devices as claimed in claim 34 wherein the inquiry command  
2 is a control inquiry command.

1 36. The network of devices as claimed in claim 34 wherein the inquiry command  
2 is a status inquiry command.

1 37. The network of devices as claimed in claim 34 wherein the inquiry command  
2 is a notify inquiry command.